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LONDON AND PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [SO](#) [ER](#)
SUBJECT: ARS HARD-LINERS FINALIZE A NEW IDENTITY

Classified By: Ambassador Ronald K. McMullen for reason 1.4(d).

11. (C) SUMMARY: Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS) hard-liners are in the process of finalizing their split from the ARS leadership now based in Djibouti. The hard-liners have drawn up plans to transform their organization into the Movement for the Establishment of the Third Republic (METR). METR Inspector General, Mahad Yusuf, presented PolOff with a manifesto proclaiming the upcoming change. End Summary.

12. (C) Mahad Yusuf served as a low-level Central Committee member before the ARS split. Since then, he has been "promoted" to the level of Inspector General. According to Yusuf, the METR will operate on three basic objectives, the first two of which are carbon copies of original ARS goals:

- "to unite the Somali people"
- "to evict Ethiopian troops out of Somalia and permanently end its interference with the internal affairs of Somalia"

The third goal, "to establish the Third Republic" consists of a series of mandates calling for, among other items:

- a Unitary State with Republican Presidential System
- a mixed economic system
- law based on Ismalic Shari'a law and Somali customary law
- a foreign policy that focuses on protecting the Somali citizens that are in a foreign land, peaceful co-existence with its neighbors, maintaining good diplomatic and trade relationships with countries of the world

According to the Manifesto, the Somali First Republic existed from July 1, 1960 until October 21, 1969, at which time the Second Republic replaced it and lasted until January 26, 1991.Q

1Q. (C) CommentQ Qhe re-alignment of the ARS hard-liners as the METR is the next step in the Asmara stragglers' bid to gain international acceptance. The language of the METR Manifesto is notably devoid of Jihadist rhetoric. Yusuf also stated the planned implementation of Shari'a law would only pertain to cultural norms rather than criminal punishment. While Yusuf emphasized that the change had not yet been made official, he openly encouraged PolOff to inform USG officials of the planned change. Yusuf, a Canadian citizen, plans to travel to Canada and the United States in the coming weeks.
MCMULLEN